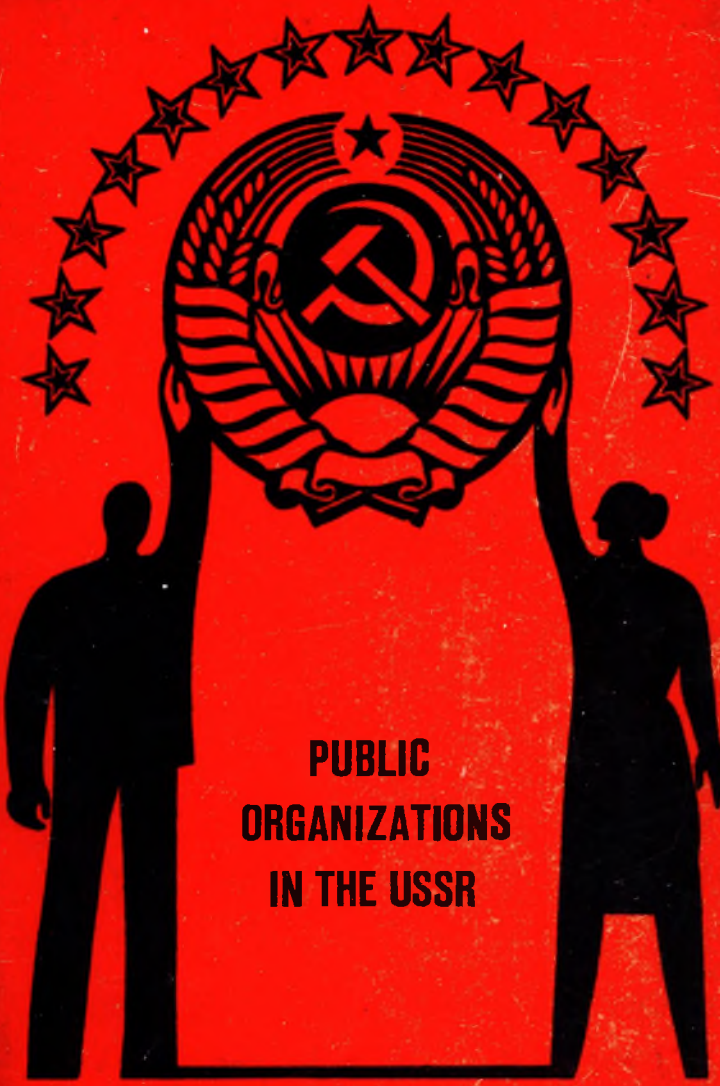

PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS IN THE USSR

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INTRODUCTION

Soviet democracy, one of the chief gains of the 1917 October Revolution, opened the way for working people to take part in running the state, industry and public affairs.

The Soviets of Working People's Deputies, the organs of state power, exemplify the democratic nature of the Soviet state system. With a national total of more than 2,000,000 deputies, each of whom is responsible and accountable to his or her electorate, they are a widely representative body.

The Soviets undertake a great many activities in the interests of the working people and under their direction. They are power of the people and for the people.

Other organizations which hold an important place in the system of Soviet democracy are the trade unions, the Komsomol (Young Communist League), cooperatives, and various societies and associations embracing millions of citizens.

These organizations constantly stimulate people's creative activity. They encourage people to respect socialist property and to work for the benefit of the whole of society; they promote the growth of science, technology and culture. They give millions of citizens experience in how to run the society which helps foster in them the habits

and qualities essential for members of a communist society.

This work deals with the main public organizations of the Soviet Union, their role in the life of the country and prospects for their development.

It is largely through these organizations that public control is exercised in the USSR. They are also instrumental in molding public opinion within the framework of Soviet democracy.

ROLE OF PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

Various societies of workers, peasants and intelligentsia as well as youth organizations emerged on a broad scale during the first years of Soviet government. At the same time vital changes took place in the trade unions, cooperative associations, art workers' unions, scientific and technical societies whose aims and activities acquired a new, socialist content.

With the foundation of the Soviet state these organizations were given a real opportunity to take part in social management. In Soviet times their organizational forms have steadily developed and become more varied. Public organizations

have considerably increased both in number and in membership, and at present unite over 100,000,000 citizens, which is practically the whole adult population of the Soviet Union.

Article 126 of the Constitution guarantees all citizens the right to unite in mass organizations: trade unions, cooperative societies, youth organizations, sport and defence organizations, cultural, technical and scientific societies—in conformity with the interests of the working people and in order to develop their initiative and political activity. The most active and politically-conscious citizens among the working class, peasantry and intelligentsia voluntarily unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to build a communist society. The Party guides the work of all organizations, both public and government.

An important aspect of Soviet democracy is that public organizations are not in opposition to government bodies. They cooperate closely, and with each year their joint activities become more diverse. This is because of the socio-economic and ideological unity of Soviet society, which is a society exclusively of working people.

Does this mean that there is no distinction between public and government organizations? Not at all.

The Soviets of Working People's Deputies, the organs of power, represent more fully than any other organization the entire Soviet people, all classes and groups within the nation; while the public organizations represent definite sections of the people: trade unions—industrial and office workers, the Komsomol—young people, collective farms—members of agricultural cooperatives, etc. The Soviets deal with problems concerning the

entire population they represent; they can make regulations and enforce their fulfilment.

Public organizations have a specific character and an independent place within society. They channel the energy, initiative and the spontaneous activity of millions of people to benefit society.

Under socialism social and personal interests coincide. This coincidence occurs not only in public life. Most Soviet people make no distinction between personal and social interests when performing their professional duties. Each wants to work honestly and to the best of his or her ability; and this is in the interest of the whole of society. In public organizations, however, personal and social interests are merged on a scale far exceeding the sphere of their members' official work and extend to the diverse and steadily expanding circle of people's interests. Participation in public organizations enables millions of Soviet citizens to develop their intellect and gives them broad opportunities to use the faculties and talents they possess.

Like government bodies public organizations employ methods of persuasion by forming public opinion. But unlike government bodies, public organizations have no administrative powers—they cannot make laws or enforce them. Their influence is restricted to the sphere of ethics and public opinion.

Public organizations are self-governing societies based on democratic centralism. That is also the basis of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, trade union councils, and the Komsomol.

At all levels the executive bodies of these organizations are elected, with the lower ones being subordinate to the higher.

Millions of citizens, without financial reward take part in the diverse work of public organizations which are a good school of self-government. Many local societies and associations have no paid workers. Experience has shown that the development of public activities is inevitably followed by the growth of organizations' active membership and the reduction of their paid staff.

People's social activity is not confined to public organizations alone but has a host of other forms, such as housing committees, pensioners' councils, women's councils, voluntary detachments of public peace officers, etc. Moscow alone numbers more than 400,000 participants in the work of these organizations.

Numerous societies of this type are attached to the local Soviets of Working People's Deputies which, as organs of power, play a leading role in many spheres of the national economy, including public catering and trade, education and health, housing and the municipal economy, social security and finance, protection of nature and maintenance of public order, local industries and agriculture.

Despite their vast responsibility the permanent staff of the Soviets' executive committees is rather small. In their work the committees largely rely on active members of public organizations. Whatever the undertaking launched by the Soviets on a republican, regional, municipal or village scale, or even within a single street or yard, the many public-spirited citizens lose no time in joining in the work.

Citizens' committees are usually set up for periods necessary to fulfil a task. Unlike in public organizations, however, there is no membership,

no centralized system of management, for they are concerned chiefly with specific local problems. They are formed at meetings and conferences, or are made up of representatives from different public organizations and societies.

The number of citizens' committees grows every year. By drawing the population into social activities they contribute much to developing and broadening the democratic character of the Soviet state system.

Such organizations as industrial innovators, young specialists' and women's councils are not only attached to state bodies but also to public organizations. An especially great number of citizens permanent consultative committies, commissions, councils, etc. are attached to trade unions. This strengthens the authority of all the organizations.

Public organizations are playing an ever-increasing role in the day-to-day work of state organs: local Soviets, ministries and their committees, etc.

The trade unions, for example, have extensive rights in economic development, especially, in planning. The Soviet legislative system envisages the obligatory participation of trade unions in working out production plans and in the solution of current problems concerning organization of production, conditions of labour, etc.

The Komsomol has close links with the educational bodies and takes an active part in educating the youth. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Society of the USSR maintains contact with the health services. It has a ramified network of medical courses training nurses; it provides invalids and aged patients with medical care at home, and

publishes medical literature. Government bodies concerned with the country's defence are helped in their work by the Voluntary Society for Assisting the Army, Air Force and Navy.

Public organizations are playing an increasing part in the legislative work of the highest organs of state power in the USSR, the Union and autonomous republics. Due to their initiative a number of important bills have come before the Supreme Soviet. Closer contacts are growing steadily between various state management units and public bodies attached to them (public councils, inspectorates, etc.).

Of late, representatives of mass organizations (trade unions, the Komsomol, collective farms, etc.). have begun to be included in some state management bodies. People's Control Committees, for example, are assisted by groups of people's representatives elected at general meetings of enterprises, building sites, collective and state farms and housing management offices from Party, trade union, Komsomol and other mass organizations.

The mass organizations' role has increased as on many of them have been bestowed the functions of State bodies. The trade unions, for example, have been given management of all sanatoriums and rest homes, formerly in the charge of the Ministry of Health; the Union of Sports Societies has been given charge of sport and physical education; the All-Union "Znaniye" (Knowledge) Society now heads all lecturing work, previously organized by the Ministry of Culture. These are but a few examples.

This process brings more people into public activity, while the methods of solving the same

problems have become more democratic; it promotes the development of public control and forms of comradely assistance. A good example is the social insurance system which was formerly in the hands of the state and is now handled by the trade unions. The latter has recruited a thousands-strong army of voluntary social-insurance workers and has attained notable results.

Delegation of some of the functions of state bodies to mass organizations has strengthened the Soviet state and created favourable prospects for socialist statehood to grow into communist public self-government.

Mass organizations are called upon to play an increasing role in the management of cultural, health and social insurance institutions and gradually will go over to running places of entertainment, clubs, libraries and other cultural and educational establishments still run by the state.

This process, however, cannot be regarded as a universal means for democratizing further Soviet life. It is only a part of the sum total of measures envisaged for the further extention of democracy and public management in all spheres of political, economic and cultural life of Soviet society.

TYPES OF PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

TRADE UNIONS

Mass organizations in the Soviet Union vary in type and the ways in which they draw people into public affairs and government.

The trade unions with a membership of some 86 million are the largest.

Trade unions emerged in Russia in the period 1905-07 during the first Russian revolution. They immediately entered the fight for economic and political rights for the working class, against capitalist exploitation and tsarist autocracy.

Russian trade unions came into being at a later period than those of Western Europe. This is because the western countries had reached the capitalist phase much earlier than Russia, where

under tsarism there could be no question of legal mass organizations of the working class.

During the strikes that swept Russia in January 1905, workers at large enterprises in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiev, Kharkov and other cities began to elect strike committees, plant commissions, Soviets of factory deputies, Soviets of representatives, etc., which were the forerunners of industrial trade unions.

The first trade unions emerged in March 1905 at the Putilov, Semyannikov and a number of other large St. Petersburg plants. Before long the movement had spread to all the large towns of Russia. By 1907 there were 652 trade unions uniting 245,000 workers employed in a number of different industries.

In June 1907 the tsarist government launched an offensive against the trade unions many of which were banned.

During the First World War the tsar's government came out with new repressions against the trade unions. Most of the organizations were destroyed; those that survived could hardly function because of the restrictions imposed on them by the government.

The victory of the February 1917 Revolution made it possible to revive the old trade unions and for new organizations to be formed. By May 1917 their number had gone up to 2,000 and their membership to 1.5 million.

The victory of the October Socialist Revolution and the conquest of power by the working people radically changed the role and significance of the trade unions. Having become organizations of the working class in power they came to occupy a vital place in the building of a new society.

Since they are mass working class organization the trade unions have the same goals as governmental bodies. This does not mean, however, that they are governmental organizations. They use independent ways and means to achieve these goals.

Speaking of their role after the conquest of power, Lenin described them as "a reservoir of state power, a school of communism and a school of management." Lenin's definition became one of the foundations of the USSR Trade Union Rules.

In their organizational structure they are based on the principle of democratic centralism and one of industry.

Relations between Soviet TU members and their elective bodies as well as between elective bodies are founded on democratic centralism, which also determines their organizational structure. This structure is defined in the TU Rules as follows:

a) all TU bodies from the lowest to the highest are elected by and are accountable to the membership;
b) TU organizations solve all issues in conformity with the USSR Trade Union Rules and decisions of higher bodies;
c) decisions can only be adopted by a majority vote of the members;
d) lower TU bodies are subordinated to higher ones.

"One enterprise—one trade union" is the essence of the one industry principle. An electrician, for instance, employed at a steel plant is a member of the Steel Workers' Union and not of a union for workers in the power and electrical industries. In other words, workers and staff at a

steel plant irrespective of occupation or post are members of the same trade union.

According to this system each enterprise can have only one trade union, only one TU committee.

Years of experience have shown the advantages of the one industry principle over organization according to trades or shops. It promotes unity of action among the workers of each enterprise and on a nationwide scale, increases the responsibility of each TU organization in carrying out the work of the enterprise, and ensures better satisfaction of the cultural, material and every-day requirements of all the workers.

This principle enables trade unions to take a more active part in planning and organizing production, in ensuring labour safety, spreading and introducing advanced experience.

At present there are 24 industrial trade unions in the Soviet Union which embrace all the key spheres of the country's economic, social and cultural life.

The specific features of each industrial trade union are defined in the Rules of these organizations which conform to the USSR Trade Union Rules.

The highest body of the trade unions is the USSR Congress of Trade Unions convened once every four years.

In between congresses the AUCCTU (All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions), elected at the last congress, directs trade union activity. In between its plenary meetings which are convened at least every six months, this is done by the Presidium, while all current executive and organizational affairs are performed by the secretariate.

The highest directing body of each branch union is its Congress, which is convened once every two years. The general structure of branch unions is determined by the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. This is what it looks like: republican, territorial, regional, municipal and district central committees; Committees of local organizations at enterprises, building sites, institutions, educational establishments, etc.

This is the "vertical" pattern of the organizational structure. The "horizontal" pattern shows the territorial relations of TU Councils (regional, territorial and republican) with branch trade union committees. TU Councils guide the work of all TU organizations in their specific republic, territory or region.

Thus each branch TU is based on the industry principle whereas TU Councils are territorial bodies. Consequently, Soviet trade unions as a single mass organization of the working people are built on a territory-industry pattern.

The basic unit of a trade union is the primary organization.

A primary organization with a membership of 15 and over elects a local committee and an inspection committee for a term of one year. Where there are fewer than 15 members a TU organizer is elected for the same term.

Local TU committees may have a number of standing commissions. These are usually concerned with production, wages, rate setting, labour protection, social insurance, pensions, housing, public inspection, cultural work, work among children and adolescents.

Soviet trade unions are independent mass organizations of workers and staff. Their numerous

active members combine TU work with their regular jobs. Ninety-five per cent of all local TU organizations, district and municipal committees and nearly all shop committees have no paid workers.

Active TU membership stands at 4,000,000 for factory locals, shop committees and TU bureaus; over 1,000,000 for factory local inspection committees, and there are almost 1,700,000 TU organizers; more than 12,000,000 active members take part in the work of the local factory commissions. The total active membership is upwards of 23,000,000.

Local TU bodies have some 9,000 supernumerary departments and more than 30,000 public councils, commissions and inspection committees.

Members are being drawn into active work with the central TU committees and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions on an ever-increasing scale. A number of representative public commissions have been attached to the Presidium of the Central Council. These deal with economic questions, social insurance, labour protection, work among women, mass cultural work and housing. An institute has been established to train supernumerary instructors for the Central Council of Trade Union.

The state does not interfere in the internal affairs of Soviet trade unions which conduct all inter-union relations. It is therefore natural that their decisions are obligatory only for TU members. An exception is made only as regards decisions on the social insurance system and labour protection which entail the paying out of social insurance allowances and the fixing of rules and regulations for labour safety and sanitation mea-

sures. These decisions have legal force as in this case the trade unions are invested with the functions of government.

The trade unions have an important role in all aspects of Soviet life. Along with other public bodies they help in preparing and carrying through the elections to various representative organs such as the Supreme and the local Soviets, and assist the Soviets in their work.

Broad initiative is shown by the trade unions in bringing nation-wide and local issues before the Soviets. They also help elaborate government bills and the decrees and decisions of local Soviets and their executive bodies. The laws on pensions, shorter working hours, higher wages for workers in the lower income brackets, among others owe their success to the tireless work of the trade unions.

Another of their functions is participation in planning. The economic development plans on which all Soviet industrial and cultural construction work is based are state plans which have the status of a law. They all begin however at plants, factories and state farms where they are drafted with the direct and active participation of all workers and staff. They are then finalized on a regional and republican scale according to industries and according to the economy as a whole by the relative economic bodies.

At all stages of this process the drafts are discussed by local and central TU organs and, in their final stage, by the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. Every trade union body considers and gives its opinion of the draft. Upon reviewing the draft of the national economic development plan of the USSR for 1966, for instan-

ce, the Central Council Presidium submitted to the government some 20 remarks dealing with industrial production, transport and communications, labour productivity, higher living standards, housing and labour protection.

Planning organizations and the Soviet government consider these remarks and discuss them with the trade unions.

The trade unions, by enlisting the efforts of the broad masses in economic planning, ensure that the plans are better carried out, that they are more realistic and that the people work the more enthusiastically to fulfil them.

They pay particular attention to questions concerning production, work in factories and offices, cultural and every-day services and ways of raising the professional level of the working people. They search for ways to direct the efforts of workers to improving the country's economy and labour productivity, to playing an active part in inspection, to helping workers and staff acquire habits of managing state and public affairs, to steadily raising living standards, bettering cultural and every-day services and to defending the rights and interests of all members. These are some of the chief tasks of the Soviet trade unions listed in the TU Rules.

Means of promoting industrial development occupy a central place among TU tasks. Under socialism and communism industrial development as a whole is directed towards achieving the fullest satisfaction of the material and spiritual needs of the entire population. This calls for the drawing into production management first of all, of broad sections of the working people and developing their creative activity.

The trade unions do much to develop socialist emulation campaigns, movements of collectives and shock workers for the communist approach to work and of inventors and rationalizers; they assist in the work of permanent production meetings and organize workers' meetings—among a host of other important activities.

Special credit is due to the trade unions for developing, on a broad scale, plans to raise labour productivity at every working place, to have inspections to check up on the expenditure of raw and other materials, public reviews of reserves for boosting labour productivity and competitions for high production efficiency.

The trade unions exercise public control over the fulfilment of building plans and the opening of new enterprises.

Besides promoting efficiency and the use of advanced techniques at enterprises the trade unions constantly try to improve labour conditions and the welfare of workers and staff and to protect workers' material interests and legal rights.

In the Soviet state where the working people hold power, trade unions do not have to wage class struggle on economic issues, since there are no exploiting classes. All members of the society are equally interested in improving their country's economy and raising living standards. Acute conflicts between labour and management are therefore most improbable. It is the duty of the trade unions, however, to protect the legal and material interests of the working people against bureaucracy and to correct mistakes made by economic organizations. They have the legal authority to take what measures are required in this respect.

The trade unions directly participate in fix-

ing wage rates. In recent years the wages of factory and office workers have been raised, new conditions of labour remuneration have been adopted.

The drafts of these conditions dealing with rates for workers and scales of salaries for engineers, technicians and office staff, the basic principles of awarding bonuses and other problems were elaborated by the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Labour and Wages in cooperation with the TU authorities.

These drafts were then submitted for consideration to trade union and economic bodies and then to enterprises where they were widely discussed.

The amended drafts were then handed over to the USSR Council of Ministers and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions for their consideration and joint approval.

The state has given the trade unions authority to handle social insurance matters. Out of social insurance funds are paid temporary disability allowances, maternity grants and pensions to employed and retired pensioners and their families. Summer holidays for TU members' children, treatment at sanatoriums and resorts, invalid diets and tourism are financed out of social insurance funds.

The Soviet social insurance system which covers every aspect of the people's lives is one of the greatest gains socialism has brought. Entirely financed by the state, it does not involve any deductions from wages, and benefits all workers without exception.

The trade unions work out the social insurance budget, ensure that enterprises and establishments pay the correct insurance dues. They grant and pay out temporary disability and other allow-

ances. An exception is made in regard to pensions paid to retired pensioners—they receive their allowances through state social security organs. TU representatives participate in commissions which grant pensions to workers and members of their families.

Another of their functions, authorized by the state is to see that the labour protection laws and industrial safety measures which came under trade union control back in 1933 upon the liquidation of the People's Commissariat (ministry) of Labour are observed. They see to it that sanitation at enterprises is well maintained.

Paid inspectors from the regional, territorial and republican TU Councils check up on the observance of labour laws and industrial safety measures.

Assisting them are supernumerary technical inspectors from among engineers, technicians and skilled workers. Although this is a form of voluntary work, these people enjoy all the rights of full-time inspectors, except that they cannot fine administrators for violation of labour laws or industrial safety measures.

Much of the trade unions' activity is directed towards improving the health services. In 1960 they took charge of most of the health resorts, sanatoriums and holiday homes. This was to improve the organizational structure of sanatorium and health-resort services and to raise the role of trade unions in this sphere.

The material welfare of the working people is steadily boosted through the TU system of public control over community services. Trade unions press for the fulfilment on schedule of plans for the construction of housing and social amenities,

supervise the distribution of dwelling space, work to improve public catering and trade, to expand the network and improve the functioning of medical and child-care establishments. The system of public control over housing construction enlists the services of more than one million industrial and office workers.

Trade unionists exercise control over municipal transport, food and department stores, dining rooms and restaurants, and community services (bath houses, laundries, barber's and hairdresser's establishments, dry-cleaning and repair shops, etc.).

If violations or grave shortcomings occur, trade unionists take adequate measures on the spot, or the TU committee appeals to higher bodies including organs of public control and, if need be, the procurator's office.

Through their network of clubs, palaces of culture and libraries the trade unions carry on extensive cultural and educational work. This will be discussed later on in the chapter on "Public Organizations and Culture."

Higher industrial output resulting in higher living standards has meant that workers' cultural and technical standards have risen too. The trade unions do much to promote this. At the suggestion of workers at factories and plants trade unions have organized all kinds of courses to study advanced methods and to up-grade skills. Nonfiction libraries are functioning; seminars and conferences on technological problems are held.

Trade unions pay a great deal of attention to the education and upbringing of the younger generation. They and plant and factory managements help schools equip their workshops and fos-

ter in young people respect for work and tradesmanship, and educate them in the best working class traditions.

They also make available to them a large network of cultural and sports establishments, clubs, amateur art groups and pioneer camps.

Mass-scale sports activities are also organized by the trade unions. This will be dealt with later on along with cultural activities within the trade unions.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES (COLLECTIVE FARMS)

Besides the trade unions there are collective farms, consumers' and producers' cooperatives and housing cooperatives among others which unite large numbers of people.

Of these, the biggest are collective farms. In 1967 there were some 35,000 collective farms with a membership around 19,000,000. They had at their disposal 67 per cent of all the arable land in the country and accounted for more than half the agricultural output.

The collective farm is a voluntary productive cooperative union of the peasants, which develops along lines of self-government.

The first collective farms were formed at the very outset of Soviet government. Mass collectivization, however, developed in 1929-30 when Soviet industry began the large-scale output of tractors and farm machinery. Whole villages, districts and regions organized in collective farms. In 1930

they produced more than half of the country's marketable grain.

The land worked by the collective farms is state property. But it has been handed over to the farmers for free use in perpetuity. The farm's buildings, animals, agricultural machinery, produce, etc. are its own property which may be disposed of as the members see fit. The farmers themselves manage their farm. They organize production, elect the management and control its work. All these matters are dealt with at general meetings which are the highest administrative body of the farm. Each farmer has a vote, and the right to take part in the discussion of production affairs, to submit proposals, to elect and to be elected to the management.

The farmers' meeting adopts the farm Rules which are worked out on the basis of the Model Rules for Collective Farms and govern all farm activities. If necessary a general meeting can amend the Rules. It adopts the annual and long-term production and financial plan, fixes output quotas, job prices and the basic and additional wages; it adopts the farm regulations and takes decisions on many other issues.

On large farms which often have several thousand members the highest body is the meeting of farmers' representatives. These representatives are usually elected (one from every 5-15 farmers) for a term of 1-3 years at work team meetings by open or secret ballot.

General farmers' meetings or meetings of farmers' representatives are not permanent bodies. They are convened periodically, at intervals specified in the farm's Rules.

The day-to-day work of the farm is organiz-

ed by the farm management which is a permanent body elected at general meetings usually for a term of two years. There are often several score members on it.

It is controlled by the general meeting, and regularly reports its activities to it. General meetings are important events in the farm's life. They review the work done by the management and announce production results. These are discussed previously in the various teams and departments. This is an important element of farm life and collective-farm democracy.

All issues under the authority of the management are settled during discussion among the members. Every farmer has the right to attend and take part in the management's meeting.

A key role is played by the farm chairman who is also chairman of the farm management. He is elected together with the management and for the same term. If the chairman can not cope with his work, or for other reason loses the farmers' confidence, he can be recalled from his office. Such was the case with the chairman of the "Paris Commune" Collective Farm in the Khmelnitsky District of Khmelnitsky Region. Unable to carry out his duties properly, failing to keep pace with life and refusing to heed the farmers' opinions, he was relieved of his post by a general farmers' meeting and a new chairman was elected in his stead.

On small collective farms the teams and specialized farms are led by team leaders and farm managers appointed by the farm management. They help the latter to control the work of these units.

The larger farms require a more complex sys-

tem of management. Here collective forms are preferred: councils elected at team and farm level, which greatly facilitate the team leaders' work in carrying out the decisions of the farmers' meetings and the farm management.

Collective farmers also exert their influence on the work of the farm through diverse auxiliary public bodies which are of great assistance to the management and specialists.

Among these are the monthly production meetings held by teams, specialized farms and other units, various technical and agricultural councils, councils of veteran farmers and rationalizers' bureaus.

By working with these bodies the farmers get experience in management and decision-making on a wide range of questions concerning the farm.

Collective-farm democracy and complete autonomy in dealing with internal matters does not mean that their economic activities are entirely free from state control.

Collective farm land is state-owned. The state sells the farms machinery and fertilizer and grants them loans. They, together with the state farms, are the main producers of agricultural output and hence are, to a great extent, responsible for the welfare of all the Soviet people and for the efficient work of a number of industries. Under a planned socialist economy this demands that the state exercise some control over their activities. This is also in the interest of the collective farms. The state renders them considerable material and organizational aid and gives each farm a definite place in the general system of planned socialist economy. State control blends the public interest with that of each farm and farmer. The state sees

that the farms observe the Collective Farm Rules and that the farmers' rights and interests are safeguarded.

Our socialist state is interested in developing collective-farm democracy as a major means of drawing the people into economic management.

State planning of agricultural output is closely linked with planning on the collective farms. Naturally the collective farms are responsible for planning most of their farm work. The state informs them of its procurement plans for the coming five years, and on this basis they draft their plans. All the members take part in this. Then the plans are submitted for approval to a general meeting.

The state guides the work of the collective farms through local state authorities.

Although collective farms are production organizations, of late they have concerned themselves with cultural and educational work among their members and are devoting increasing sums of money to this purpose.

The Kirov Collective Farm in the Bryansk District of Bryansk Region is a good example of this. The management had adopted a plan to modernize the Timenichi Village. Among the new projects were a house of culture, a shopping centre, community service establishments, a hotel, a nursery, a medical station, a maternity home, a park, a stadium, a pionneer camp and a swimming pool.

In 1959 the state turned over to the collective farms numerous clubs, libraries and other cultural establishments, retaining its guiding role.

Councils of culture that have been set up on many collective farms help promote cultural and educational activities in the villages. They enlist

the services of local professional people, specialists and farmers to help in farm clubs and libraries. The councils are becoming real centres of rural culture.

CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVES

Consumers' cooperatives are voluntary associations, chiefly of collective farmers, which help the state supply consumer goods for the countryside. They have over 53 million members.

Through a wide network of shops, public catering establishments, warehouses and factories to process farm produce, the cooperatives steadily increase the volume of purchases, and expand trade and public catering.

As distinct from the collective farms, consumers' cooperatives are organized along centralized lines. Their lower units—rural consumers' cooperatives (*selpo*) are united into district cooperatives which in their turn enter regional, territorial and republican organizations. Their managing and organizing centre is the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives (Tsentrosoyuz).

These cooperatives are democratic organizations in which personal initiative plays a big role. They attract broad masses of the rural population.

All organs of consumers' cooperatives are controlled by their members. Their administrative organs are the general meeting of the membership (or of representatives) for rural cooperatives, the meeting of members' representatives for district cooperatives, and congresses of representatives for regional, territorial, republican cooperatives and

for the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives. The regional, territorial, republican cooperatives and the Central Union set up their respective councils to take charge between congresses. These councils have complete authority except that of dissolving a cooperative.

The consumers' cooperatives elect executive organs—management boards to carry out their decisions. These boards and the cooperatives' enterprises are under the control of elected inspection committees.

Of late a number of issues formerly under the authority of the Central Union have been transferred to republican, regional and territorial cooperatives. This has improved operation and given management boards greater responsibility.

The state plays quite an important part in guiding consumers' cooperatives. In the first place this is because of the leading role of public ownership in a socialist economy, and the fact that the state, by expressing the will and interests of the working people, ensures an efficient blending of nation-wide interests with those of each cooperative and each member.

The relationship between the state and the consumers' cooperatives, as with the collective farms, is based on the combination of state leadership and intra-cooperative democracy and initiative. The cooperatives favour state guidance, for the state renders them material and organizational assistance and includes them in the general system of economic planning.

The cooperatives' balance sheets are taken into account when the state plans are being drafted and the state plans give them direction, since their trade activities are closely tied up with the

state sector of the economy. Most of the goods sold at cooperative shops come from the state. The way they work has an influence on the country's money circulation and the state budget.

Consumers' cooperatives have extensive international ties. Since 1921 the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperative has been a member of the International Cooperative Alliance.

HOUSING COOPERATIVES

Another form of Soviet cooperation which has in recent years developed on a particularly large scale is the housing cooperatives. These help the state solve the housing problem faster by funnelling the citizens' personal savings into house building.

In the USSR housing construction is financed chiefly by annual state allocations under national economic plans. In addition, the amount of housing built is expanded with personal savings of the working people supplemented by state loans. This is where the housing cooperatives come in.

Housing cooperatives are voluntary associations of citizens who pool their resources to build a block of flats for themselves with state assistance.

These blocks of flats and the required public service establishments are built by state contracting firms. The state provides the building materials and equipment, and the work is included in the plan of contractual construction together with state housing construction. The cooperatives are given long-term bank loans.

Housing cooperatives are established at enter-

prises, in different organizations and in the executive committees of Soviets of Working People's Deputies. All questions dealing with the organization of the cooperative, its financial and economic aspects are discussed at the general meeting of cooperative members which is the highest authority of the organization. The general meeting fixes the amount of down payment and maintenance payments and determines the order in which the flats are to be distributed among the members.

A general meeting of members elects a management board and its inspection committee.

Housing cooperatives have their own Rules which are worked out and adopted by the cooperative in conformity with the Model Rules of Housing Cooperatives. Each Union Republic has its own Model Rules. These cannot cover the specific requirements of all cooperatives; each cooperative makes its own additions which, however, must not conflict with law.

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

The Leninist Young Communist League of the Soviet Union (Komsomol) is an independent mass organization of young people with a membership of 23 million which plays a prominent role in the life of the country.

From the very first days of its existence the Komsomol came out as an active and conscious revolutionary force of Soviet society, as a school of dedicated fighters for communism. It occupies an important place in the country's political, economic and cultural life. Many of its members who fought the enemies of the young Soviet Republic

during the Civil War performed exploits that made them immortal. Thousands of young patriots have inscribed their names in Soviet history during the industrialization, the collectivization of agriculture, the first Five-Year Plans and the cultural upswing. The names of young heroes of the Great Patriotic War who gave their lives to save their country from fascist enslavement have become legendary.

Today the Young Communist League is the militant vanguard of Soviet youth. An active group of Komsomol members is found at practically every enterprise, building site, collective or state farm, educational or scientific establishment in the country.

The Komsomol has demonstrated that in Soviet society it is the Party's active helper and reliable reserve. This is also stated in the Rules of the Young Communist League. The Komsomol works under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It helps the Party to educate young people and to draw them into practical activities in building a new society.

The basic tasks of the Komsomol were defined by Lenin in 1920 at the 3rd Congress of the Russian Young Communist League where he called upon the young people to master all the achievements of culture and knowledge and to take part in the practical side of communist construction. "The Young Communist League," he said, "must be a shock force, helping in every job and displaying initiative and enterprise... The Young Communist League must combine its education, learning and training with labour of the workers and peasants..."

This speech by Lenin remains an important

programme document of the Komsomol. Following Lenin's behest millions of young men and women are working unsparingly to gain knowledge and master production skills; alongside the older generation they work in industry, on building sites and collective farms. The Komsomol enjoys the love and respect of all Soviet people and plays no small role in state affairs.

Like the trade unions, it directly participates in the practical work of government. Under the Constitution the youth organization has been given the right to nominate candidates for election to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies (from local Soviets to the Supreme Soviet). Many young people, YCL members among them, have been elected to the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Supreme Soviets of the Union and Autonomous Republics and local Soviets.

The Komsomol actively participates in the work of all government bodies; it takes part in drafting and discussing current and long-range plans for economic development, legislative and other acts concerning youth.

On Komsomol initiative the Soviet government passed a law on setting up evening schools for young workers and farmers. A special youth commission was recently formed by decision of a Supreme Soviet session.

The Komsomol trains young people for all branches of economic management as well as for work in health, cultural and other establishments. During the fifty years it has existed nearly 100 million young people have gained political and organizational experience within its ranks. Millions of Komsomol members have joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The Komsomol's highest authority is its Congress. It passes decisions on current problems, elects the central bodies and hears their reports. In between congresses Komsomol affairs are managed by the Central Committee elected by the Congress.

Komsomol activities are based on initiative and enterprise by all its members. In recent years there has been a substantial fall in the number of paid YCL workers in district, town and regional Committees. Their place has been taken by young men and women for whom YCL work has become part of their public activities.

The aim of the Komsomol is to give every member substantial experience in public life.

Its key tasks are:

to produce highly trained people with good, all-round development, staunch and selfless champions of communism capable of managing public and state affairs; to teach members and all young people to use Marxist-Leninist theory creatively and to develop a scientific materialist world outlook, ideological conviction and a class approach to social phenomena;

to educate the youth through the experience of the Communist Party and the people's revolutionary traditions; to develop in young people a feeling of Soviet patriotism, invincible fraternal friendship among all the Soviet peoples, proletarian internationalism, love for their socialist motherland and a constant readiness to defend, arms in hand, the gains of the October Revolution;

to develop in young people a communist attitude towards labour and socialist property, a high sense of responsibility towards one's collective

and society and a firm conviction that personal aspirations should be inseparably linked with the lofty ideals of the entire people;

to train the rising generation in the spirit of communist morals, collectivism, comradeship and intolerance of all manifestations of selfishness, narrow-mindedness, private-owner psychology and violations of the norms of socialist society and of Soviet laws;

to raise the revolutionary vigilance of Komsomol members and young people in general and foster in them intolerance of bourgeois ideology and morals, of imperialist propaganda attempts to confuse the younger generation with false slogans of "class peace."

Political clubs, young Marxist's universities, lessons on Leninism, seminars and conferences on vital problems of the day are among the forms and means used by the Komsomol to acquaint young people with the social sciences.

Following Lenin's advice, the Komsomol does not confine itself "to its schools," does not limit itself to "reading communist books and pamphlets." It takes an active part in the country's administrative, economic, social and cultural construction. In its activities it proceeds from Lenin's thesis that only by working shoulder to shoulder with the workers and farmers can one become a real communist.

The history of the Komsomol has many glorious pages that show the truth of these words. Since the first days of Soviet power Komsomol members have been most active in all spheres of economic construction, wherever there was a need for expertise, energy and muscular strength: they have helped develop the country's natural resour-

ces, build new towns, plants, factories and mines, work in agriculture.

It is now traditional for the Komsomol to send thousands of volunteers to the country's key building sites, to where the most difficult jobs are.

Time and again thousands of young patriots have relinquished the comforts of urban life to become pioneers in the virgin lands of Kazakhstan, to develop the vast areas of Siberia, Far North and Far East; to build towns, power stations and plants in what used to be the wilderness. They have emerged victorious from this battle with nature; for many of them it became a school of courage and self-reliance.

Members of the Komsomol built the modern industrial town of Komsomolsk-on-Amur, the Bratsk Power Station, the Abakan-Taishet Railway, the Bukhara-Urals gas main and the "Apatit" combine on the Kola Peninsula. They have opened up millions of hectares of virgin and fallow lands, and built 22 towns and 140 settlements in Siberia and the Far East.

One should not think that the young volunteers working at far-off construction sites lead a life of privation. As everywhere in the Soviet Union, they have adequate facilities for professional training and cultural activities. Many of today's chief engineers and managers on large construction sites are those same young people who earlier went there as junior engineers and workers.

The Komsomol looks after the key undertakings of the national economy. They organize emulation among young builders which results in all new projects being put into operation on schedule; they ensure that conditions are adequate for

the young workers to live, work and study; that they have proper cultural and medical services, efficient public catering, and shopping facilities among other things.

Many industrial projects have been completed ahead of schedule due to the hard work done by Komsomol members and the youth.

In the sphere of national economy the Komsomol uses various forms of public control; it organizes inspection tours, public reviews, contests, etc. In 1962 it inaugurated a new youth movement called the "Komsomol Searchlight" whose name speaks for itself. Young Komsomol members assumed the task of providing a constant flow of information on all the aspects of the national economy through inspection with the idea of eliminating existing shortcomings. More than three million young people are active in this patriotic movement.

The Komsomol displays constant concern for young people's education, leisure, health, everyday life, cultural and physical development.

Its committees awaken young people's enthusiasm to expand their knowledge, to master the achievements of science, culture and technology. Together with the management of industrial enterprises, building sites, state and collective farms and with TU bodies they work out long-term and yearly plans for raising the general and special educational and cultural levels of the urban and rural youth and see that these plans are carried out.

Extensive work is carried on by the Komsomol in general, secondary special, higher and vocational schools. Its organizations help strengthen the material base of schools, build premises, equip

laboratories and workshops, popularize tuition by correspondence and through evening schools, arrange for vocational and technical education for young people.

Equally important is their contribution to the work of student bodies. The Komsomol has the right to give young people recommendations for admission to higher schools, to have representatives on selection committees and scientific councils to have a say in the allocation of scholarships, to organize fieldwork, and find jobs for young specialists.

The Komsomol has established close ties with such cultural and educational establishments as clubs, palaces of culture, libraries, etc. Komsomol members draw broad sections of young people into the work of these establishments.

The Komsomol plays an active role in popularizing physical culture and sports among the youth. More than 150,000 of its members have been elected to the managing boards of various sports societies.

The Komsomol is a militant vanguard of the international revolutionary and democratic youth movement. It constantly expands and strengthens friendly ties with fraternal young communist leagues in other countries, with young champions of freedom and national independence, peace and socialism.

THE YOUNG PIONEERS

Soviet children have a mass organization of their own. This is the Young Pioneer Organization named after Lenin which admits boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 15. It teaches child-

ren to love their socialist country, its past and present, to be diligent in their studies, to respect elders and take care of younger children, to protect green plantations and animals, to esteem the work of others and learn to work themselves.

Young Pioneer groups are set up in all Soviet schools. These groups are divided into detachments which in their turn fall into Young Pioneer sections. This is a self-governing organization with elected bodies, except its leaders who are young men and women, usually teachers. Its activities are guided by the Komsomol.

Its authority is the Central Council which works under the leadership of the Komsomol Central Committee, and in close cooperation with the public education, TU, sports and other organizations working with children.

Its Council enjoys the help of experienced teachers, scientists, children's writers, composers, painters, engineers and workers—all those concerned with education of the rising generation.

The Young Pioneer Organization publishes dozens of newspapers and magazines in the numerous languages of the Soviet peoples. Its chief organ, the "Pionerskaya Pravda," comes out in 10 million copies.

One of the Young Pioneers' rules prescribes friendship with all the children of the world. The Young Pioneer Organization maintains friendly ties with children's organizations abroad and often exchanges delegations.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES

Enthusiasts of all that is new and progressive in the field of technology are united within scien-

tific and technical societies whose ranks embrace some three million scientists, engineers and advanced workers.

These societies have traversed a long and difficult path.

In the second half of the last century advanced representatives of the Russian technical intelligentsia whose aim was to promote the development of Russian science, technology and industry sought ways to exchange experience and bring together specialists in diverse fields of knowledge. With this end in view they united into various societies.

One of the first public organizations of this kind was the Russian Technical Society which was later followed by the emergence of societies of chemists, physicists, metallurgists and others.

They organized industrial and technical exhibitions and convened meetings and congresses on major problems of scientific and technical development. At that time, however, progressive proposals of the public rarely found support with the tsarist government. Many innovations were realized only after the October Revolution, which ushered in a new stage in the work of scientific and technical societies. Today the Soviet state has established the most favourable conditions for stimulating the creative activity of scientists and engineers.

Industrialization gave impetus to new forms of research. Scientific and technical societies began to emerge at enterprises in Moscow, Leningrad and other cities. They took part in working out plans for the development of industries, helped the workers to master new equipment and techniques and improve their skills.

In 1954 the scientific and technical societies were reorganized into mass societies according to industries in order to draw in innovators among the workers. Leadership of these organizations was handed over to the trade unions. The All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies founded in 1965 united all the industrial societies.

Today the Soviet Union has 21 industrial societies. In recent years alone they have worked out more than 850,000 technological and production recommendations. Their practical implementation has had considerable economic effect.

Scientific and technical societies work in close contact with managing organizations and ministries. They take part in determining direction of technical progress for various industries, in elaborating and implementing plans for the development of new techniques and equipment.

Some 60,000 local scientific and technical societies are functioning at industrial enterprises, on state and collective farms, at research and design institutes. Nearly half of them are technological and production councils of enterprises.

The scientific and technical society at the Novo-Ufimsk oil refinery has founded a research institute enlisting the services of some 500 engineers, technicians and industrial innovators. In the course of a few years they have initiated more than fifty technical innovations of considerable importance.

These societies devote much of their effort to extending the technical knowledge of specialists and the skills of industrial workers. In 1966 alone some 175,000 courses, seminars and classes for the study of new technology were conducted.

Members of the societies read lectures on the latest scientific and technical advances and numerous technical magazines on advanced industrial experience are published.

RATIONALIZERS AND INVENTORS

The All-Union Society of Inventors and Rationalizers works in close contact with the scientific and technical societies. Its aim is to develop the initiative and creative abilities of factory and office workers and to promote implementation of their proposals.

This society unites engineers, technicians, industrial and office workers, pensioners, and students engaged in invention and rationalization work or contributing to the development and implementation of inventions and rationalization proposals.

Its numerous local organizations are functioning at industrial enterprises, building sites, transport, communications and agricultural enterprises, in research and design institutes, educational establishments, technical schools and other organizations. The minimal membership for a local organization is three.

There are some 50,000 local organizations of inventors and rationalizers throughout the country with a membership of about three million. They set up consultation centres to help inventors and rationalizers with their proposals, arrange for engineers and technicians to assist beginners, and organize exhibitions of inventions.

As in the case of scientific societies the trade unions play a guiding role in the work of these organizations.

"ZNANIYE" (KNOWLEDGE) SOCIETY

The surging progress of science whose achievements are finding increasing implementation in industry, culture and daily life is typical of our day. That is why the systematic renewal and widening of one's knowledge after finishing secondary, technical or higher school has become a vital necessity for the majority of Soviet people.

Soviet scientific propaganda is fully concentrated in the hands of Soviet public organizations for cultural and educational work. Among these, of paramount importance is the All-Union Society "Znaniye" which was founded in 1947 to keep the population constantly informed of all political and scientific achievements.

Numerous workers in science and technology, literature and art, social and political workers, front-rankers and innovators in industry, transport and agriculture contribute to the society's work. Many leading research institutions and higher educational establishments have become active popularizers of scientific knowledge.

"Znaniye" has a ramified network of local branches at enterprises and collective farms, educational and other establishments with a total membership of some 1,500,000.

Its sphere of activity has considerably expanded since it took over all the lecturing work in the country which was previously in the hands of the USSR Ministry of Culture. The society's lecturers deliver more than 42,000 lectures daily to an average audience of about two million people.

In 1967 a total of 16,468,000 lectures were delivered throughout the country with the active participation of many prominent Soviet scientists

whose vivid and yet simple interpretations of the most complex scientific problems attract millions of listeners and have an immense educational influence.

The society devotes a considerable part of its work to the publication of popular-science literature and accounts for almost one half of all Soviet publications of this kind.

It deserves great credit for its unique achievements in raising the cultural level and moulding the world outlook of the Soviet people. Its activities have brought the society wide recognition and have become an integral part of all the ideological and cultural work in the country.

SPORTS SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

All physical culture and sports are the concern of the Committee for Physical Culture and Sports under the USSR Council of Ministers. It directs the work of various voluntary sports and physical culture associations.

The activities of sport societies which embrace millions of people would be inconceivable without the participation of a huge number of enthusiasts (more than three million) who are the initiators of all physical-culture and sports movements in the country. There is hardly a town or village in the Soviet Union where sport does not occupy an important place in the lives of people of all ages. Some 200,000 physical-culture groups function at plants and factories, mines and building sites, state and collective farms, educational and other establishments. There, under the guidance

of experienced trainers and instructors, over 50 million take part in various sports.

This number does not take into account those who begin their day with setting-up exercises, go in for gymnastics to improve their health or devote their leisure to hiking, cycling, boating, hunting or fishing.

Millions of Soviet citizens take up athletics, skiing, play football or volleyball; of late many have taken up badmington and skin-diving.

Soviet athletes have at their disposal over 2,000 stadiums, some 20,000 sports grounds, 35,000 or so football fields and 20,000 gyms. These numbers increase every year.

Sports societies work in close alliance with other mass organizations: trade unions, the Komsomol, cooperatives, etc.

FRIENDS OF THE ARMY, AIR FORCE AND NAVY

The Voluntary Society of Assistance to the Army, Air Force and Navy is a mass organization whose aim is to have a reserve of physically developed, tempered citizens, and to help strengthen the might of the Soviet Armed Forces.

Members are admitted from the age of fourteen through individual applications. Its work is based on its members' initiative and independent activities and is carried on in close contact with TU, Komsomol, sports and other mass organizations.

The society has a rich historical background. Various popular defence organizations began to emerge during the first years of Soviet power. In January 1927 they united into one mass patriotic Society of Assistance to the Aircraft and Chemic-

al Industries which educated the working people in the spirit of Soviet patriotism, popularized military knowledge, and trained reserves for the Army, Air Force and Navy.

When Hitler's Germany attacked the Soviet Union, the system of defence organizations comprised thousands of training groups, and detachments, with a membership of some 2,500,000 citizens who had mastered combat skills. The Society's clubs had trained a considerable number of pilots and parachute jumpers.

The Society had special sections for designers. It was here that many outstanding designers received a start in their work. The most renowned of them are S. Korolyov, the famous space-rocket designer, and A. Yakovlev, O. Antonov, and N. Kamov, prominent aircraft designers.

Millions of the Society's members went to the front in the first months of the war while hundreds of thousands joined the People's Volunteer Corps and partisan detachments. Many of them performed memorable feats of heroism.

The Voluntary Society of Assistance to the Army, Air Force and Navy which emerged after the war continued the best patriotic traditions of its predecessor—the Society of Assistance to the Aircraft and Chemical Industries.

Today it popularizes military knowledge among its members, and trains the population in methods of defence against air attacks, atomic bombing, gas and germ warfare. It gives its members a knowledge of military professions and promotes combat types of sport: piloting planes, helicopters and gliders, parachuting, motoring, motorcycling, amateur radio, aquatic sports and sharpshooting.

Several Soviet space pilots came up through this Society, among them Yuri Gagarin, Valentina Tereshkova, Pavel Popovich and Valery Bykovsky.

The Society carries out extensive orientation work among the population.

The Society's activities include safeguarding the lives of bathers and boating men.

Its activities are of tremendous help to the national economy, for millions of tractor and combine drivers, motorcyclists and automobile drivers, radio operators, radio designers and civil aviation workers learned their skills at the Society's courses, clubs or schools.

THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIETIES FOR FRIENDSHIP AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Soviet people who bore the brunt of one of the most bloody wars in human history—the war against fascist Germany—perhaps more than others value peace. That is why they put such great effort into ending all wars.

Numerous voluntary Soviet societies for friendship and cultural relations with other countries headed by the Union work actively to arrive at this lofty goal.

The Union aims to develop and strengthen friendship, mutual confidence and cultural cooperation between the Soviet people and other nations, to acquaint Soviet citizens with the economy, culture and daily life of other peoples and to inform them about life in the USSR.

Founded in 1958, the Union now has a rami-

fied network of friendship societies which maintain contacts with many countries. These are mass organizations whose collective membership numbers thousands of enterprises, establishments and organizations. The Soviet-Polish Friendship Society, for example, has a collective membership of 150 enterprises, collective farms, scientific and cultural institutions. It has branches in several Union Republics and in many towns and cities.

A 30 million-strong army of active members contribute to the diverse activities of the Union.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Society of the USSR, which is a member of the International Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, has branches in all the Union Republics and a large network of local organizations all over the country.

It is an active popularizer of medical knowledge among the population, helps improve the health services and renders considerable assistance to people suffering from natural calamities or war.

Time and again it has helped the population of other countries in time of disaster. It plays an important role in promoting friendship and mutual understanding among nations.

SOCIETIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MONUMENTS

Besides All-Union organizations, the USSR has societies functioning within the framework of

the Union Republics. Among these are the Republican Societies for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments.

At the constituent congress of the Russian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments held in 1966 numerous delegates, among whom were scientists, writers, painters and students of local lore, spoke of the huge cultural and educational importance of the cause taken up by this organization. On the eve of its inauguration it had over one million applications for membership. Great effort is devoted to preserving the historical and cultural monuments in ancient Russian towns. All questions concerning further architectural reconstruction of these towns are decided jointly by historians, archeologists and deputies to town Soviet. This cooperation helps preserve all the historical survivals that are dear to the people, and find the best architectural solutions for blending the new with the old.

PROFESSIONAL UNIONS

Apart from the voluntary societies mentioned, there are unions and associations based on professions. Among these are the Union of Soviet Writers, Union of Soviet Artists, unions of journalists, composers, cinema workers, architects, etc.

Although they have much in common with trade unions, they are set up not according to one's place of work but unite persons working in one creative field. This accounts for their rather small membership: less than 50,000 in the Union

of Soviet Journalists and 8,000 in the Union of Soviet Writers.

By pooling the creative powers of workers in the various arts these unions are able to solve important problems in the cultural life of the country. They consolidate the country's artistic forces, promote the development of socialist culture and raise the professional competence of their members.

As pointed out in the Rules of the Union of Soviet Journalists, this organization's aim is to give readers wide and truthful information on all that is new and progressive in the world, to support and popularize advanced experience, to boldly expose shortcomings and work for their eradication, to raise the professional level of Soviet journalists, to develop their creative initiative, to help organize the education of amateur journalists at factories, offices and on farms, to defend the labour and authorship rights of Soviet journalists and to help meet their professional and cultural needs.

An important task of these unions is to be mindful of the every-day quests, joys and difficulties of every worker in the arts. Talent, said Lenin, is a rare thing that should be taken care of, encouraged and developed. The unions show a deep interest in vital issues concerning artistic work, in new works and publications which are actively discussed at their meetings. They are always eager to discover a gifted work which accords with the time and the spiritual requirements of the Soviet people, and to inspire the artist with new creative ideas.

Unions of writers, artists, composers, architects and cinema workers have commissions and asso-

ciations concerned with creative work and sections for professional and other problems; they organize seminars, competitions, exhibitions, press conferences; they exchange experience and publish newspapers and magazines and take part in the work of international organizations.

Each year increasing numbers of books, films, plays, works of art and music win public acclaim. The best of these are awarded Lenin and State Prizes or Prizes of the Union Republics. This is evidence of the state's constant concern to have the Soviet people develop their creative abilities; it is convincing proof that under socialism the artist's creative work becomes an integral and indispensable part of social labour. Such an atmosphere promotes the fruitful work of creative unions.

These unions do not confine themselves to their own specific, professional interests. They popularize art, they assist numerous amateur art groups, literary associations, beginners in literary work, amateur painters, etc.

SOCIETIES ACCORDING TO HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

In the Soviet Union a variety of associations, societies, clubs and other organizations with rather small membership cater for the different inclinations, interests and hobbies of people.

In many Union Republics there are societies of nature lovers whose common aim is to assist state undertakings in protecting and making the best use of the country's natural wealth, as well as in aforestation. In recent years, all the Union

Republics have adopted laws on nature protection which stress the role of these societies.

Hunters and fishermen have numerous societies which popularize these sports and do a great deal towards the restoration, development and proper exploitation of hunting and fishing reserves.

Firemen's societies draw broad sections of the population into fire prevention thus protecting public and personal property against fires.

There are societies of philatelists and dog-fanciers, coin and match-box collectors, pigeon-fanciers, floriculturists, amateur photographers among others.

PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS AND PRODUCTION

In the Soviet Union all plants and factories, mines and railways are public property and are managed by special ministries or departments through boards.

The socialist nature of the Soviet state where the people have political power and own the country's natural wealth envisages that they participate in economic management. They do this through mass organizations like the Party, trade unions and the Komsomol which were discussed in the preceding chapter. This chapter shows how these organizations draw broad sections of the working people into the sphere of production management.

MEETINGS OF WORKERS AND STAFF

Meetings of workers and staff are the most wide-spread form of public influence on production, the most representative and the most active and democratic form of collective management. They improve the organization of production and working and living conditions and strengthen labour discipline.

Workers' meetings at the Leningrad Printing Machine Works, for example, encourage workers' initiative and help the management to increase production, introduce advanced labour methods and improve educational work.

The management pays great attention to workers' oppinions, takes into account their criticism and gives active support to valuable suggestions. Collective recommendations are steadily put into practice.

These meetings are usually organized by the TU Committee. Its members discuss with workers of the different sections what issues should be brought up at the general meeting.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

Collective agreements have become a traditional form of interesting workers and staff in public management of production.

These are bilateral agreements between the management and the collective represented by the factory or local TU committee. The agreement usually embraces the most important aspects of production and such issues as wages and labour conditions, cultural and welfare facilities.

Under socialism a collective agreement is a programme of joint action by both the collective and the management on all aspects of the work of the enterprise.

Each article included in the agreement, each commitment is carefully discussed, and the entire collective takes part in summing up the results. This method enables workers and other employees to submit valuable proposals which help raise efficiency. In eliminating shortcomings, the administration often comes under criticism. The collective agreement becomes an effective means of workers' control.

If the managers of enterprises go back on their commitments they may be called to account—they may be reprimanded, fined or even prosecuted if their offense is construed as criminal.

The TU Committee on behalf of workers and staff has the right to bring before the administration and TU bodies the question of a manager's dismissal should he fail to fulfil the conditions of the collective agreement.

PERMANENT PRODUCTION COMMITTEES

Permanent production committees which have an important place in industrial collectives, enable millions of workers and staff to take an active part in production affairs, by teaching them the essentials of economics and how to run their enterprises more efficiently.

Permanent production committees are formed at enterprises and building sites which employ 100 and more workers. They are made up of workers, office staff, representatives of the trade union

and the administration, the Party and Komsomol, scientific and technical societies. The permanent production committees are elected at general meetings for a term of one year.

Over 120,000 of them have been set up at building sites, enterprises and their shops. Their membership stands at some five million, and they are assisted by another half a million people.

These bodies have extensive rights. Managers must give them an account of all economic activities, must work out and discuss with them all production plans and proposals for improving inter-plant planning, organization of production and the introduction of new techniques. They can take practical decisions and at regular sittings hear the managements' account of how these are put into effect.

Here is an episode that occurred at the Kirov Works in Leningrad. One day a shop superintendent was summoned urgently to the chief engineer. On his way to the office the superintendent recalled the events of the previous week, the instructions and directions that he had received. What had gone wrong? Everything seemed to be all right: the schedule was strictly fulfilled. There had been, of course, certain criticism on the part of the public organizations, yet their recommendations had somehow slipped his mind in the course of day-to-day work. At the office he met the members of the permanent production committee, including the roller V. Kuropatkin, the electrician S. Okun, the technologist N. Suvorov, the foreman K. Nerobov and the designer L. Krok.

The chief engineer began without further ado: "You know these comrades. Please tell us how your shop fulfils the decisions of the permanent

production committee. Give us a detailed account, on every single point."

A few days later an order was issued reprimanding the superintendent for "failure to carry out recommendations made by the permanent production committee."

PERMANENT TU COMMISSIONS

The factory and local TU committees described in Chapter Two perform their numerous functions through permanent TU commissions which are helped by millions of voluntary workers.

One such is the wages commission of the factory TU committee at the Leningrad Carburettor Plant. It is a body of eleven headed by A. Bachkurinski, the commission chairman. He is a skilled turner, well-acquainted with production matters and questions of labour, rate-setting and wages. The other members include a moulder, a metal worker, two turners, a technologist, a fitter, an automatic machine operator, a foreman, a grinder and a tinsmith. The fact that they represent a variety of trades and are highly qualified ensures that the commission works efficiently. "We have representatives from all the shops," says A. Bachkurinsky, "that means that we have close ties with most of the production sectors. We know their labour rates, wages, bonuses. If a dispute or disagreement occurs we pass on word to the TU Committee and take joint decisions."

Special commissions which have equal permanent representations from the active TU membership and the administration and which take joint decisions play an important part in setting labour

disputes. If the TU and management representatives cannot agree or if the worker who applied to the commission is not satisfied with the decision, the dispute is handed over to the factory committee whose decisions are binding on the administration.

SOCIALIST EMULATION

Socialist emulation is another way of drawing working people into the sphere of production management. It gives them a chance to use their creative abilities and to make a full use of all the advantages of socialist labour.

During emulation campaigns the most gifted and competent specialists, innovators and advanced workers capable of teaching others are discovered. All that has become obsolete and conservative is swept away and the way opened to progress, to increased production. In their efforts to master new techniques and better the planned targets, innovators arouse the enthusiasm of other workers. Their production eventually becomes the norm for other workers. Socialist emulation is an excellent school for developing high consciousness in workers, for teaching advanced methods and mastering new technology.

Emulation is organized by public bodies. With the help of the management they work out conditions, sum up results, determine the winners and encourage them to further victories. A socialist emulation movement usually begins with the participants voluntarily pledging that they will fulfil the state plan ahead of time, and in this respect it incorporates elements of collective planning of production.

Engineers and technicians help the workers organize their work and employ new techniques to meet their pledges. Results are periodically checked by the emulators themselves. Inspection usually results in the spreading of valuable experience, and gives the participants new ideas on work methods. It also reveals shortcomings and helps find ways of eliminating them.

At many enterprises campaign results are summed up daily. At the Makeyevka Steel Works a special commission daily broadcasts the results over the intercom system. This has become so habitual that one day when the commission was 10-15 minutes late with its report, all the phones in the TU Committee office buzzed with the same question: "What's wrong with the radio? What's the reason for the delay?"

Informed of the daily results the collective is able to deal with shortcomings quickly and to adopt more efficient work methods. At the same time regular announcement of results in the press, on the radio and by visual means (posters, tables, etc.) raises the interest of millions of working people in the affairs of their enterprises.

Winning collectives receive substantial bonuses. Small enterprises allot the entire sum to individual workers and office staff members, whereas large enterprises spend 30-40 per cent of it on the cultural and welfare needs, but most of it goes for individual bonuses.

WORKING THE COMMUNIST WAY

A new and higher stage of socialist emulation is the movement of leading workers and collec-

tives to work the communist way. It was started by young railway workers at a Moscow Marshalling Yard who came out with the motto: to live, work and study the communist way. Their initiative was taken up by workers, engineers and technicians of different industries and by collective farmers and state-farm workers. Today this movement embraces millions of working people all over the country.

It reflects the specific character of the transition period from socialism to communism. Those who take part in this movement go as volunteers to lagging teams and shops and help improve their work. They display a more creative attitude towards labour, take part in the rationalizers' movement, work to modernize and make production more efficient. It goes beyond the earlier forms of socialist emulation in that greater attention is paid to questions of behaviour: where and how the worker studies; what he reads; does he go to the theatre or cinema often; whether he is a good father, etc.

This movement's emergence is the natural result of the victory of socialism in the Soviet Union with its upsurge in productive forces, and raising of the working people's political consciousness, technical knowledge, cultural and living standards.

DESIGN BUREAUS

The desire to live, work and study the communist way has resulted in a great growth of mass creative effort in the field of technology. Design and technological bureaux for economic analysis and technical information, research

groups and laboratories, councils of innovators and comprehensive rationalizers' teams have been set up at numerous enterprises. Members of these organizations spend their spare time working on technical, economic and organizational problems and arriving at solutions that will raise production.

Many are attracted to the design bureaus. These first appeared in the spring of 1960 at the Nizhny Tagil Railway Car Factory in the Urals.

These early enthusiasts certainly had no idea that they would start a nation-wide movement. They had merely wanted to introduce technical improvements that would lift efficiency and improve working conditions for metal workers as soon as possible.

Their example was followed by the workers of other enterprises. Today thousands of design bureaus raise the efficiency of their enterprises by designing and implementing projects, guiding rationalizers and organizing technical courses among a host of other useful activities.

It should be noted that the authorized establishment of small- and medium-size enterprises does not envisage having a design bureau. This makes unauthorized design bureaus exceptionally useful to those enterprises.

GROUPS OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Groups of economic analysis, often called councils, bureaus or laboratories, are other voluntary public organizations set up on the initiative of the workers and staff of enterprises in order to draw the working people into the sphere of pro-

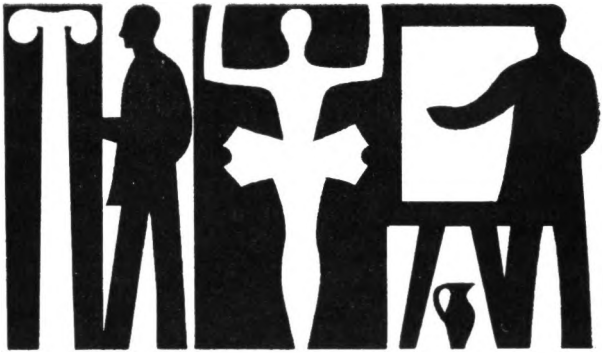
duction management. Their chief aim is to enlist the efforts of a wide range of workers, engineers, technicians, economists and accountants in making a deeper analysis of their enterprise's economy in order to find resources for increasing output and achieving their fullest implementation.

The idea originated with Sverdlovsk enterprises some ten years ago and spread quickly throughout the country. Today there are more than 10,000 such groups and their number is growing.

These groups have gained added significance since the introduction of new forms of planning and economic management. The reform raises the level of state economic planning and gives greater economic independence and initiative to enterprises. It strengthens and develops cost accounting and provides incentives for collectives and individuals. Enterprises are now more interested in increasing output and in making the best use of their production funds. Many enterprises have already achieved good results, their incomes are higher and this has a direct bearing on wages.

It is no easy task even for a worker with a secondary-school background to understand the complex character of a large-scale modern enterprise. He gets great help from groups of economic analysis which together with other public organizations arrange lectures and talks, show ways of bringing to light new reserves.

The new economic reform has created favourable conditions for expanding democratic principles in management and drawing more people into the management sphere.



PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS AND CULTURE

Educational and cultural development is handled by state bodies, usually ministries or departments. These direct the work of all schools, cultural institutions, the motion picture industry, the press, radio and television. Every year the state allocates not less than one-third of its budget towards this work—half of this money is spent directly on education, science and culture. In 1967 the sum allocated was 19,600,000 roubles.

The great strides the Soviet Union has made in cultural development are known the world over. Only 50 years ago three-quarters of the populace was totally illiterate and numerous peoples of the East and the Far North did not even have a writ-

ten language, for many years now there has been complete literacy.

With the establishment of new production and social relations, millions of people were given the opportunity to assimilate the spiritual values mankind has created.

Education became accessible to all the people and all may enjoy the boons of world culture.

Considerable help in effecting this is given by public organizations. In the very first years of Soviet rule, thousands of educated people went among the workers and peasants teaching them to read and write and explaining the need for education to build a new life. The "Wipe out Illiteracy" society, organized with the active help of educated people, together with other public bodies put an end to mass illiteracy, particularly among the peasantry.

Thus, displaying their initiative and supporting state measures in the field of education the people helped their country do away with the grim heritage of the past within a short historical period.

Today cultural development has wide scope and receives a steadily growing contribution from public organizations.

Their participation is very varied, its not least important aspect being to assist the state in providing a material base for it.

TRADE-UNION AND YOUTH CLUBS

Some 200 kilometres from Saratov there is a collective farm with its own small township. The

House of Culture there is a white two-storey building with a hall seating 450 people. On the second floor are a library with 15,000 volumes, and a reading hall. The farmers are especially proud of this establishment for it was built and is maintained entirely by the collective farm.

Clubs, libraries and other cultural establishments built with the funds of farms, TU, Komsomol, cooperative and other mass organizations, and often by their members themselves have mushroomed throughout the country.

Was this form chosen because of a shortage of cultural establishments in the Soviet Union? Not at all. For the use of the Soviet people, there are 127,000 clubs, some 400,000 libraries, over 500 theatres and 900 museums, 145,419 cinemas and other facilities. Nevertheless, thousands of new establishments are built every year, hundreds of them at the expense of public organizations. The point is that the more cultural facilities there are the more opportunities for arranging cultural and educational work. The members of the above-mentioned collective farm had this in mind when they decided to allocate a significant sum to build a House of Culture.

However, to build a club or a cinema, to open a museum or a library is only part of the job. People must go to them, so they must be made comfortable and attractive, and there should be interesting things to do—join a "circle", listen to a lecture, attend a dance or see a film. This is where public organizations make a particularly helpful contribution.

At mine No. 35 of the Karaganda Coal Basin (Kazakh SSR) the trade union guides activities at their House of Culture. These include men's

and mixed choirs, brass and jazz bands, dance and drama groups and an art studio. These have brought numerous workers into the sphere of art. The club library is also very popular and now has 2,000 regular readers.

The TU has set up a bureau which organizes lectures on technology. The workers call these "their university of technical progress." It has a laboratory with working models of various machines and mechanisms and special technical and reference literature. Advanced workers, technicians, engineers and scientists give regular lectures there.

The activities at the House of Culture are the responsibility of a management board which is elected by the miners for a two year term. For its part the trade union in the course of one year arranged a review of the amateur art groups with prizes for the winners, drew up the house's balance sheet, bought new equipment, musical instruments and properties, and had repairs done.

The house of culture is the centre for all educational and cultural work among the miners whose TU Committee hands over to it half of all the TU funds spent on mass cultural work.

Clubs, Houses and Palaces of Culture belonging to mass organizations play an important role in developing culture and making it accessible to the masses. Today the trade unions alone have at their disposal 20,000 establishments of this kind. Lectures and talks devoted to various fields of knowledge, evenings of questions and answers, debates, meetings with veterans of labour, advanced workers, engineers, scientists, workers in art and literature, concerts and plays, picture shows, balls and carnivals make them a source of useful knowledge and a place of recreation.

At enterprises and in workshops, at state farms and in educational and other establishments one inevitably comes across recreation and reading rooms called "Red Corners" which have been organized by the TU organizations to enable workers and staff to look through a fresh magazine or newspaper, to play chess or to hold a small meeting. There are some 170,000 of these.

Youth and students' clubs which work under the leadership of the Komsomol are extremely popular among the young people. It was only a few years ago when numerous placards and posters appeared in the streets of Minsk, the capital of the Byelorussia, inviting young people to come to the Youth Theatre to discuss the best way of spending young people's leisure.

They came readily—active Komsomol members and students, senior school pupils and young workers. They decided to organize a club and called it the "Central Komsomol Club."

The Club was soon very popular. It organized interesting evening parties and meetings with celebrities in art and literature, advanced workers and well-known sportsmen. Its playbills announced: "Masters of Art Visit Masters of Industry," "A Meeting of Three Generations," "Hard and Easy Roads in Life." The Club's activities were widely popularized by the press, radio and TV. It soon gave rise to a spate of young people's clubs. Young people with specific interests like music, books, travel go to them. There are clubs for girls and even for young mothers. More than 1,200 clubs of this kind have been set up in Byelorussia alone.

PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITIES

Soviet people are very interested in all fields of human knowledge—natural history, technology, medicine, history, literature, and art. Evidence of this fact is the recent emergence of "people's universities" which are a new form of raising cultural levels.

People's universities are set up according to various spheres of knowledge in clubs, houses and palaces of culture, at enterprises and building sites, in research institutions and educational establishments.

Their chief goal is to provide ideological and aesthetic education for the masses and to make known the latest achievements of science, technology and industry.

The some 17,000 that have been set up have an attendance of around three million. A big part in their establishment and functioning belongs to "Znaniye" (Knowledge) Society.

Many outstanding Soviet scientists give their services to these universities and help "Znaniye" work out programmes and forms of study. This society, often with the assistance of other public organizations (particularly professional workers' unions) provides the universities with competent lectures and teachers. "Znaniye" publishes a wide range of literature for its students. TU, Komsomol and other organizations are in charge of the university local branches.

AMATEUR ART

Whatever one's artistic bent there's bound to be an amateur art circle for it. Dancing, drama,

literature, music, etc. are popular ones. There are amateur symphony orchestras, opera studios, ballet companies, people's theatres, people's circuses, puppet theatres and amateur film studios. Some 10 million office and factory workers, farmers and students belong to the more than 500,000 amateur art groups in the country.

These groups have as their aim the encouragement of talent. Many people's theatres, studios and companies have reached the big stage; they give shows in the capitals and over the TV and go on tour to other countries; their repertoire includes numerous classical and modern works of art.

Many people have found their true vocation in amateur art groups. There numbers of professional actors, musicians and other workers in art made their first steps along the road to fame. Such was the case with the outstanding Soviet pianist Svyatoslav Richter who came to the professional stage from one of the amateur circles of the Odessa Young Pioneer Palace.

Amateur art groups as well as clubs, public libraries and people's universities are usually headed by enthusiasts who do this work in their free time.

Public organizations pay constant attention to training amateur art instructors. They arrange courses on the theory of music, choreography, vocal and dramatic art, the fine arts and film-making. A large network of special educational establishments has also been established. One of these, the Leningrad Higher TU School, trains specialists for amateur art work in TU clubs.

The art groups receive substantial aid from the

Unions of Soviet Composers, Artists and Writers, from the All-Russia Theatrical and Chorus Society and others. Amateur dramatic actors of the "Komunarka" state farm in the Moscow Region enjoy regular support from the staff of the Moscow Komsomol Theatre. Professional actors assist in the production of plays, teach and take part in performances.

PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS AND THE WORK OF STATE CULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Public organizations work actively in state cultural bodies. Take, for instance, library or club work. Plans for library services are adopted by state bodies with the participation of mass organizations. The governments of union republics have issued special decrees on this.

Public participation in library management has found expression in Councils of State Libraries which are elected for a term of one year at annual readers' conferences. The Councils elaborate plans for library services, draw people into active library work and the popularization of reading and hear regular reports by library managers. They help circulate newspapers and periodicals, raise the qualification of library workers, arrange readers' conferences and organize mobile libraries for the rural districts.

Public organizations contribute to the work of theatres, museums, parks and other cultural establishments. Each club, for example, has a council of public representatives. These councils dis-

cuss and adopt plans for club work, film repertoires, subjects for lectures and talks, and concert programmes. They sanction the appointment of instructors to amateur art groups, hear reports on their work and the reports of club managers on different events held at the clubs; they discuss the clubs' budgets and accounts.

THE SYSTEM OF PEOPLE'S CONTROL

With the emergence of the Soviet state the people became the owners of their country's land and water resources, plants, factories, mines, theatres, schools, banks and the state machinery. Like every zealous proprietor Soviet citizens take a keen interest in the utilization of their country's wealth. They are deeply concerned whether everything is being done to preserve and increase these riches. In the very early years of Soviet power the people began to look into all spheres of the country's life: to check the work of enterprises and building sites, educational and other establishments, to ensure the efficient functioning of state bodies. This was the beginning of the system of people's control.

Does every citizen actually take an active part in this system? There is no need for that. Besides, not everyone is suitable for the task, for in order to check the work of others, to expose shortcomings and demand their elimination, one must be a model in all respects and first of all in one's conscientious attitude to work and civic duties.

PEOPLE EXERCISE CONTROL

Members of people's control bodies are elected from among the most active and responsible citizens at meetings at enterprises and building sites, state and collective farms, educational and other establishments, in military units and citizens' communities.

The large collectives have scores and even hundreds of representatives who are united in teams of 7-50 citizens.

The smaller ones have people's control posts with 3-10 members. The number of representatives is determined by the members of the collective who take into account the volume and scope of work at their enterprise, collective or state farm, or establishment and the experience of those who are elected to this post.

Their daily duties are many and varied. For example, the "Tselinni" state farm of Volchikhinski District in the Altai Territory in the course of a few summer days undertook: to check public catering services, to see whether the farm's lorries were in good repair for the harvest, to check the efficiency of the harvesting arrangements, to see if the threshers were in good condition and to find better material incentives for the farm work-

ers. Solutions or recommendations were adopted on all of these problems. Naturally during their two-year terms (the practice on this state farm) the range of problems is much greater.

At enterprises, building sites, collective and state farms public control units check the fulfilment of their output plan, those for raising labour productivity, for cutting production costs and improving the quality of output; they see that there is strict economy of raw materials and other, supplies, electricity and funds. They help enterprises to discover and use additional production reserves and see that the latest scientific and technological advances are introduced.

They fight against careless management and waste, theft of socialist property and violations of Soviet law, against parasitism and other antisocial phenomena. They help to improve the work of managing bodies and seek means to reduce their costs and better their organization, to eradicate bureaucracy and red tape.

Their activities include helping to eliminate shortcomings in cultural, welfare and the medical services, with the investigation of citizens' complaints and recommendations, and fight against bureaucratic attitudes towards the people's needs.

They do not so much search for shortcomings as investigate their cause and work out solutions to get rid of them.

At one time nearly 20 per cent of the spinners employed at the Kokand Hosiery Mill in the Uzbek Republic were lagging behing the plan. Upon investigation it turned out that frequent stoppages were occurring due to poorly done repairs of machinery. The public control units demanded that the management establish more efficient ins-

pection of equipment returning from the repair workshops. The results were good. There was a sharp fall in the number of spinners whose work fell short of the required labour rates.

The people's control unit at the Urals Motor Works is a great help to the state, to their branch of industry and to the collective of their enterprise. In two years their campaign for economizing metal brought in 470 rationalization proposals, which saved 3,975 tons of iron and 149 tons of non-ferrous metals. Workers, designers, technicians, rationalizers and inventors—all contributed to this happy result.

The over 500 people in the control unit at this plant took part in a mass check-up of power expenditure which enabled the enterprise to save over 3,500,000 kwh.

How do members of people's control units find the time to do so much, bearing in mind that they are not paid workers of the State Inspection System, that they have their own affairs and work to attend to? It is true that they have no advantages over other working people. What they do have is a good knowledge of the people they work with and their affairs. Everybody—fellow workers, public organizations and their own administration give them every assistance.

Well, not everybody. They are feared by loafers, embezzlers of socialist property, and bureaucrats. These, however, make up only an insignificant few. The collective gives them active support knowing that they are acting in the interests of the workers.

Why then does the administration support them? Can the head of an enterprise or establishment be interested in criticism "from below?" It

is well known that every shortcoming in the work of an enterprise is in the end attributed to the manager. That is why a far-sighted leader with real concern for the enterprise is always ready to accept criticism aimed at making improvements in the work.

RIGHTS OF PEOPLE'S CONTROL UNITS

The work of people's control units differs from that of official investigators or inspectors. They do not write statements and reports. Together with managers, directors, foremen and other representatives of the management they work towards a common goal which is to expose and eliminate shortcomings.

They have the support of the state and enjoy a number of rights.

Sometimes managements ignore the recommendations made by the public control representatives and impede their work. Should this happen they can apply to state body competent to deal with such cases. The state also protects them from dismissal without the consent of the public organization or collective by which they were elected.

In their work people's controllers make extensive use of the press, radio, TV, cinema and other communication means (posters, placards, meetings, etc.).

Most Soviet papers publish daily information on the work of people's control representatives. Taking up an issue of the popular six-page *Izvestiya* one finds that two pages are wholly devoted to their work. There may be criticism of ministries and departments for keeping on surplus per-

sonnel, and of illegal expenditures of state funds for banquets; one can read about their experiences, as well as letters from working people, topical satires and cartoons.

These publications usually bring a flood of letters to the editorial office. Meetings where the discussion is heated take place at enterprises and in organizations criticized in the press. Ministers and other leaders of industrial departments and establishments often publish reports on measures that have been taken to improve the shortcomings exposed by people's control units.

STATE AND PUBLIC CONTROL

People's control representatives do not and cannot have any rights above those of exerting purely social influence on violators of state laws and discipline. The measures they take include the submission of the results of their inspection for discussion to leading bodies of public organizations and to collectives of enterprises, state and collective farms and establishments; the publication of these results in the press; giving public reprimands to persons responsible for violations or shortcomings; bringing the case before the comradely courts.

If public measures do not prove to be efficient enough there are other means. The point is that people's control units and their groups constitute the lower level of the system of organs responsible for people's control on a nation-wide scale. Other units of this system include Committees of People's Control which are set up in all districts, towns, regions and territories. In Union Republics

organs of people's control are headed by Republican Committees which are in their turn subordinated to the USSR People's Control Committee.

The tasks of these Committees are identical with those of people's control units at enterprises and in other organizations, but their scope of action and their rights are much broader.

People's Control Committees are entitled to demand from heads of ministries, departments, enterprises, establishments, building sites, collective and state farms that they cease violations of state decrees and other legislative acts. They can demand reports, explanations and the required materials from all officials regardless of their rank; they can check all orders and directions that are liable to harm state interests.

In regard to officials who violate state discipline and socialist law these Committees can inflict disciplinary punishment and fines, resort to demotion and even dismissal, and if necessary to bring the violators before law courts.

Their members are state functionaries who are appointed respectively by the USSR government, the authorities of union and autonomous republics and the executive committees of the local Soviets.

These Committees also attract broad masses of working people to help them in their work. They work in close contact with the permanent commissions and deputies of the Soviets and with people's control representatives.

At one time the People's Control Committee of the Ukraine began to receive numbers of complaints from the citizens of Vinitsa Region. The Committee decided to check the work of official bodies in the region. The inspection units

included the administration and departments of the regional executive committee, the regional management board of the consumers' cooperatives, the executive committees of several town, settlement and village Soviets, among dozens of others.

It would have been difficult to cope with such a tremendous task were it not for the assistance of deputies of the local Soviets and representatives from the people's control system. The results of the inspection were discussed in detail at a meeting of the Republican People's Control Committee. The executive committee of the Regional Soviets suggested a series of measures.

Then a campaign was launched by the district and town committees of people's control and local people's control units to eliminate the shortcomings. This issue was discussed at special sessions of town, district, settlement and village Soviets.

The public character of the People's Control Committees and the support and assistance given to them by the broad public ensured their successful work.

PUBLIC OPINION

The people's attitude to important events and processes taking place in the country and in the world is reflected in public opinion. It shows people's views on topical social problems which involve common interests and call for practical solutions.

In socialist society which is free from class contradictions and where people have common interests in regard to all the vital aspects of life their view and opinions naturally have a common basis.

When, in the solution of diverse problems, priority is given to public interests, when truth prevails over all personal or group benefits, then a favourable atmosphere may appear for the emergence of unanimous opinion.

Common opinion does not, however, exclude the existence of diverse views among Soviet citizens in regard to the practical achievement of various common goals.

A key requisite for the moulding of public opinion is the opportunity to express openly and defend one's views and ideas.

Socialism guarantees personal freedom and consequently freedom of expression. This is so because all the Soviet working people are free from exploitation, and are not dependent on the whims of a capitalist boss.

Since there is no class antagonism in socialist society both sides involved in a dispute have interests in common which results in a business-like, creative discussion.

Discussion of various management problems, criticism of officials regardless of their posts, broad initiative in submitting proposals and recommendations among other democratic forms of speaking one's views have become an integral part of the life of Soviet people. All this takes place in an atmosphere of personal freedom, freedom of speech and of independent activities.

In the Soviet Union public opinion plays an important role in almost all aspects of social and political life; it has a mighty influence on the bringing up of the new man of culture and on the behaviour of people in every-day life and at work.

It has a particular influence on matters of state management.

NATION-WIDE DISCUSSION OF DRAFTS

Nation-wide discussions of draft laws as well as important economic and cultural problems are one of the ways for the public to voice their opinion.

As a rule, the preliminary draft is improved by these discussions as the state can take into account the recommendations and proposals of the broad masses.

In May 1956 a nation-wide discussion was started on the contemplated law on pensions. In the course of one month ten million citizens expressed their opinion on this. Their contributions increased the 41 articles of the draft to 61, the formulation of the articles was improved and numerous corrections were made.

Only after the discussion was summed up did the USSR Supreme Soviet pass the law. The proposals that were taken into account were higher pensions for continuity of service, pensions to be given earlier to mothers of large families and the establishment of special commissions on pensions elected from among the public—that among many other improvements and additions.

During these discussions millions of people from all walks of life make their suggestions, amendments and additions at meetings and in the press. Under socialism the mass of the people exercise their right to take part in the elaboration of legislative acts.

Socialism does not only afford freedom of expression but also puts people's ideas into effect.

What influence does public opinion have on the work of the Soviets and the state machinery?

All Soviets of Working People's Deputies beginning with the Supreme Soviet of the USSR through to the village Soviets are elected on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

To form a government is not the only purpose of the electoral system. It enables Soviet citizens to learn about the work of the Soviets, to give their deputies mandates and check their fulfilment, and to recall deputies if they fail to perform their duties.

The mandate given to the deputies expresses the will and opinion of the great majority of the electorate. It contains a number of proposals to guide the deputies and the Soviet in their work. The electorate keep a close watch on how the mandate is realized. At special meetings deputies make regular reports on their own work and on that of their Soviet. Criticism of shortcomings has a decisive influence on the work of the state organs.

Of late at meetings of the electorate it has become a regular practice to listen to reports from the Soviets' executive bodies and from officials in charge of enterprises and organizations providing community services. These usually become detailed discussions on the work of different economic and cultural units and on the efficiency of the officials.

These reports receive wide publicity, and are accompanied by a business-like investigation of

the failures and achievements of the state bodies and by critical surveys of all the aspects of their work.

Reports have grown into a stable and extremely active link between the Soviet, its executive committee and the population. It gives the electorate full control over all aspects of the government's activities, exposes errors and shortcomings and eliminates them through criticism. This system gives the people an opportunity to take an active part in the practical implementation of their recommendations and proposals.

The work of the Soviets and that of managers of enterprises and organizations is assessed at workers' meetings and local TU and YCL organizations. This is another way in which public opinion is expressed.

Other ways of influencing the work of state administrative bodies is through meetings and congresses of workers employed in different economic, scientific and cultural spheres.

Public opinion is largely moulded in the Soviet Union by the extensive system of information that reaches out to the entire population. Party and state officials, economists and social workers keep the people constantly informed of all aspects of the country's home and foreign policy, of the work of government and mass organizations. Soviet people often meet with local officials, and those in charge of the boards of education and health Service, trade, municipal economy and public services. These meetings keep the people outline immediate tasks and the measures to be taken to eliminate all shortcomings in the work of State organs.

PRESS, RADIO AND TV

The press, radio and TV are powerful means of moulding public opinion and giving all-round expression to the views and feelings of the Soviet people.

They all have correspondents working in the industries and the rural areas. Some 5,000,000 people, for example, send contributions to the Soviet press.

All these people with different occupations and backgrounds express their views on local problems, home and foreign policy, the work of State bodies, and a host of other matters of interest.

Problems that have a direct bearing on the people's interests are discussed in the newspapers and magazines.

Discussions and opinion-polls are regularly held on the radio and TV. People of all ages and all walks of life are involved in these. The scope is immense: from arguments among schoolchildren on what real friendship is or the best profession to choose, to problems of space development, biomechanics and cancer research raised by scientists. Collective farmers, agronomists and economists initiate discussions on forms of remuneration of agricultural work and engineers, industrial executives and workers debate ways to improve technology and introduce mechanization and automation into production processes.

The letters sent to press, radio and TV centres reflect accurately the views that are taking shape in the minds of the people and their sentiments, for all dwell on problems that concern common rather than personal interests.

These "truly human documents" as Lenin cal-

led them, constantly give a factual picture of the state of public opinion in the country, of what occupies the minds of the people and their reaction to different events.

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE SHAPING OF THE PERSONALITY

Public opinion exerts great influence on the shaping of the personality, the development of communist ethics and the eradication of obsolete concepts alien to socialist society.

Under its impact all that is new and progressive becomes the ethical norm for the majority. It enriches man's inner life, his views, feelings and habits and promotes social progress.

Public opinion formulates the moral standards of society and helps to introduce them into man's daily behaviour. Thus when public opinion supports the patriotic initiative of developing new forms of socialist emulation a desire for selfless creative labour is initiated.

The communist labour movement of shock workers developed rapidly because it had mass support. The knowledge that progressive initiative will always find support with the public inspires each member of society, stimulates his mind and develops his initiative.

The opinion of the collective greatly influences each member's outlook, sentiments and habits.

The respect and encouragement of fellow workers give feelings of satisfaction, while to sink in their estimation and to lose their confidence brings deep and sincere suffering. This often for-

ces the individual to try and discover where he has erred and to correct his mistakes.

Most Soviet people would prefer severe punishment by administrative order to having their misdemeanours made public and discussed by fellow workers or comradely courts.

Comradely courts which are elective public bodies are highly regarded. Of late their rights have been considerably extended.

Thus public opinion exerts substantial influence on the moulding of the personality. Public approval or censure develops in people a conscious approach to their behaviour and fosters high moral convictions.

In the course of communist construction public opinion becomes one of the basic criteria for evaluating human behaviour and what motivates people.

Encouragement or censure result in unity of action among all Soviet people and help to foster high ideological and moral principles.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS

As has been shown, Soviet society offers its citizens a wide range of mass societies and organizations. These vary from governmental bodies like the Soviets of the Working People's Deputies, to such as the numismatists' society with its small membership.

There are no professional or class restrictions on membership. Machine operators and electricians, who belong to the working class, professionals like engineers and agronomists, can apply for membership in a collective farm in much the same way as a farmer. It is not unusual for workers and collective farmers to be members of a society for the spreading of political and scientific knowledge.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union which leads Soviet society represents all social classes. Its members are the most active and politically conscious workers, farmers and professional people, who give their allegiance to Marxism-Leninism.

The highest form of mass political organization, the CPSU guides all the people's activities in increasing production and creating an abundance of material and spiritual wealth, and encourages each to use his or her initiative for the common good.

In the course of pre-revolutionary struggle and during the fifty or so years of the Soviet state's existence the Communist Party has become a mighty force of around 13,000,000 members.

The Party is the mind, the honour and the conscience of the Soviet people, the initiator of historic revolutionary changes. The people look upon their Party as their leader, as the organizer of all their victories. Their time-tested experience has convinced them that the policy waged by the CPSU is the only correct policy, and the road along which the Party leads them is the only correct road, the road of Leninism.

The Party, anticipating the needs of the future finds scientific ways of advancement, it mobilizes the energy of the masses and leads them to new unconquered heights. The Party's struggle for the achievement of communism has won the hearts and minds of Soviet people and inspires them to outstanding feats of labour.

In the period of full-scale building of a communist society the Party's significance continues to grow, largely because the increasingly complex tasks confronting the people require: a higher level

of political and organizational leadership; the growing creative activity of the people and the need to draw fresh millions into the administration of state affairs and of production; the further development of socialist democracy, the growing role of public organizations, the extension of the rights of the Union Republics and local authorities; the growing importance of the theory of scientific communism, of its creative development and propaganda and the necessity for improving the communist education of the working people.

The CPSU Programme stresses that socialist society must be built along broadly democratic lines. Through the Soviets, the trade unions and other mass organizations that have been mentioned Soviet working people actively participate in state administration and in solving economic and cultural problems.

All these organizations are united by the Party and their efforts directed towards a single goal.

It is the leading core of all working people's organizations, both mass and governmental but it never interferes in their internal affairs or infringe upon their rights.

No Party organ may give instructions to any mass organization on the formation of its leadership.

The CPSU energetically endeavours to improve the work of mass organizations, to extend their rights and functions and to strengthen their authority. It guides the work of TU, Komsomol, cooperative and other organizations through local Party groups which are elected to the leadership of these organizations and which carry out their work by communist methods of conviction on the basis of the broadest democracy.

How in practice does the Party guide the work of mass organizations?

At conferences, congresses, and meetings of Soviets, TU, cooperative and other mass organizations and in their elective bodies whose membership includes not less than three members of the CPSU, special Party groups are elected, their task being to increase the influence of the Party and to conduct its policy among non-Party people, to strengthen Party and state discipline, to combat bureaucracy and to check the fulfilment of Party directives.

In deciding all problems, it is the duty of these Party groups to adhere to the decisions of higher Party organs.

While leading, organizing and educating the Soviet people, the CPSU steadily draws them into the work of mass organizations, and develops their initiative and activity. This is an indispensable requisite for the future transition from socialist statehood to public self-government under communism.

CONCLUSION

It is now a matter of practical necessity to draw every single citizen into the administration of public affairs, which is the ideal of all communists.

The Soviet Union is steadily implementing measures aimed at developing and perfecting the system of democracy; and increasing number of working people are taking a direct part in managing state, economic and cultural affairs.

One of the main trends is the increase of the role of public organizations in all spheres of Soviet life. They are growing in membership, and their responsibility is being broadened. This is particularly important for the future development of socialist society, for through their daily public work millions of Soviet citizens are learning the fundamentals of government.

With the achievement of communism, society will develop into a highly organized community of self-governing working people. There will be no state bodies. The society will be based on universally-recognized principles, adherence to which will become a habit with all people.

This form of society envisages the active and direct participation of every member of society in solving nation-wide problems; it will ensure the fullest realization of the ideals of friendship, equality and fraternity among people.

This means that society will not fall back upon any particular section but will take upon itself the solution of all problems and practical implementation of all matters bearing on public interests.

Public self-government will incorporate the best elements accumulated in the work of the Soviets, TU, cooperative and other mass organizations of the working people.

Transition to self-government is not the work of a day but a long and gradual process. It can be seen already in the social and political structure of Soviet society and socialist democracy, in the growing activity of the masses in all spheres of public life and in the steady improvement of the work of state and mass organizations.

People the world over are witnessing the outstanding achievements of the Soviet people which are the result of their selfless labour; they can observe the advantages of socialism which has put an end to forced labour and provided the working people with the broadest rights in administering public and state affairs.

It is naturally the task of future generations to create the most expedient and reasonable forms of self-government. Contemporary man's vision of the future, his desire to visualize life under communism is explained by the fact that elements of the future system are already finding their way into his daily life.

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на английском языке

Цена 27 коп.